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FEBRUARY 3.

Dr. GEORGE H. HORN in the chair.

Forty-eight persons present.

Papers under the following titles were presented for publication :—

"On the External Characters of a Fœtal Reindeer and other notes." By R. W. Shufeldt.

"Crustacea from the northern coast of Yucatan, the harbor of Vera Cruz, the west coast of Florida and the Bermuda Islands." By J. E. Ives.

FEBRUARY 10.

Dr. GEORGE H. HORN in the chair.

Twenty-seven persons present.

A paper entitled, "On some recent Japanese Brachiopoda with description of a species believed to be new," by W. H. Dall and H. A. Pilsbry, was presented for publication.

Effect of environment in the modification of the bill and tail of birds.—DR. SPENCER TROTTER exhibited specimens of several of the common Finches of eastern North America, belonging to the genus *Ammodramus*. He stated that this genus, as now recognized by American Ornithologists, includes three types of birds formerly considered as representing distinct genera:—*Ammodramus*, *Passerculus* and *Coturniculus*. These birds undoubtedly belong to one genus and show very clearly the effect produced by environment in modifying the bill and tail and producing subgenera of birds originally coming from one stock. The species of the *Passerculus* and *Coturniculus* groups are inhabitants of the uplands and subsist mainly upon seeds which they pick up from the ground. All these birds have the short thick bill which characterizes so many of the Finch tribe. The true *Ammodrami*, however, as exemplified by the Sharp-tailed and Seaside Finches inhabit the salt marshes of the coast and subsist on the small crustacea and worms. In obtaining these animals they are compelled to probe in the soft mud in which they live and this necessity, acting through numerous generations, has produced the longer and more slender bill which characterizes these birds. The habit of clinging to the long slender reeds of the marshes and the effort to retain their perch when the reeds are swayed about by the wind has tended to produce stronger and larger feet in the true *Ammodrami* and to develope stiff pointed